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# FOREST LODGE

## A Living Legacy

## and Public Land Treasure in Northern Wisconsin

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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# FOREST LODGE

## A Living Legacy

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CATALOGING PREP

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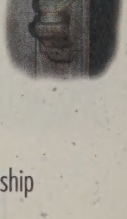
# *Preserving a Public Land Legacy...*

A captivating place, Forest Lodge nestles among lush ferns and majestic white pine, maple and hemlock on Lake Namakagon in southern Bayfield County in northern Wisconsin. Located about an hour from Lake Superior in the heart of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, this special place epitomizes the scenic northwoods landscape of the Upper Great Lakes region. Its rustic, peaceful setting beckons to those seeking solitude and reflection.



The Forest Lodge estate, acquired by the USDA Forest Service in 1999, with the assistance of The Trust for Public Land, reflects one hundred years of northern Wisconsin stewardship and tradition. A life estate and endowment fund provide for seamless transition to public use.

Now is the time for discovery and planning to build partnerships and realize a collective vision for the future.

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# Forest Lodge

A secluded family retreat for over one hundred years, the Forest Lodge estate begins this century as a public land treasure thanks to the foresight and generosity of its donor, Mary Griggs Burke.

Mary Griggs Burke, upon donating her 872 acres of mature forest and the Forest Lodge estate to the American people, shared her vision for the future: to protect the integrity of the land and lakeshore.

*"This gives people free and beautiful land to enjoy."*

–Mary Griggs Burke
Remarks at the Dedication of Forest Lodge on August 10, 1999

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# Broad Range of Oppo

Forest Lodge appeals to a broad range of potential users and supporters. The Forest Lodge Center will serve Great Lakes area audiences through unique programs in conservation, education, arts, and humanities.

Future uses will reflect the site's special history while serving the changing social needs of communities and public lands. Workshops and informal retreats at Forest Lodge will also benefit tourism and the local businesses that support its operation.

See yourself or your organization making quality connections at Forest Lodge!

# See Yourself

- *Teachers & Educators*
- *Artists & Artisans*
- *Community Leaders*
- *Historic Preservationists*
- *Social Science Researchers*

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# unities at Forest Lodge

- A teacher, learns new ways to connect with students through the natural world at Forest Lodge.
- Artists find inspiration by working with a master painter, writer, musician or photographer at Forest Lodge.

- Outstanding conservation leaders enjoy a seminar with esteemed natural resource leaders at Forest Lodge.
- Maintain your community's northwoods lifestyle by bringing people together to talk things out at Forest Lodge.

- Master your skills for preserving historic buildings and landscapes at Forest Lodge.

# at Forest Lodge!

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# Investment for Public Use

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting land for people, led the collaborative effort enabling the federal government to purchase Forest Lodge. The purchase included formation of an endowment fund for maintaining the estate's buildings and grounds.

Also established at the time of acquisition, the Forest Lodge Advisory Council oversees the endowment's growth and future distribution.

The Saint Paul Foundation, a community-based nonprofit organization in Minnesota, administers the endowment fund and coordinates the Advisory Council's activities.

The Trust for Public Land has built upon the Forest Lodge legacy by launching Northwoods Initiative, a special program that helps to conserve lands in the Upper Midwest.

*Forest Lodge is the Walden Woods of the Midwest.*

–Shaun Hamilton
The Trust for Public Land

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# HISTORY OF FOREST LODGE

## *A Living Legacy in Conservation*

The Forest Lodge legacy began in 1902 when Crawford Livingston purchased 100 acres of cutover land and an old North Wisconsin Lumber Company camp. A wealthy St. Paul, Minnesota businessman, Mr. Livingston savored his outdoor pastimes, hunting and fishing with family and friends.

In the years that followed, he set about to build his summer estate and watch the forest recover. Taking up this dream in 1916, his daughter and her husband, Mary Livingston and Theodore Griggs, continued to improve the estate. Saint Paul, Minnesota architects Edwin H. Lundie and Magnus Jemne were hired to design portions of the facility. Crafted of wood and native stone, each building reflected the colors and textures of the forest. Trails and moss-covered pathways wound through the site, leading to favorite picnic grounds, lakeshore views and the forest beyond. A man-made stream tumbled downhill behind the guest house, near the main lodge.

Mr. Livingston's granddaughter, Mary Griggs Burke, grew up spending summers and some winters at Forest Lodge. She inherited the estate from her mother, Mary Livingston Griggs, in 1943. Mrs. Burke has recalled many fond memories of canoeing, snowshoeing, swimming, picnicking, exploring the lakeshore, and spending youthful days at the playhouse deep in the woods.

Brown Swiss cows at the Forest Lodge Dairy, a small, licensed operation, produced butter, milk and cream at the cow palace's milk room and creamery until the early 1960s. Lake ice, cut each winter and stored under sawdust in the ice house, cooled food and drink. The greenhouse and gardens, developed in the 1930s, still provide fresh vegetables and cut flowers, a summer tradition at Forest Lodge.

Forest Lodge has welcomed countless gatherings of family and friends from near and far. Many remember the elegant parties, lawn bowling, tennis, and old movies. Others recall a magical place where it seemed like

woodland fairies lived in icicle palaces and the forest whispered its secrets to the wonder of both children and adults. Gradually over the years, as Crawford Livingston had envisioned, thousands of young trees pushed up through the forest floor, fresh with early growth, naturally seeking the warm sunlight of a new century.


FOREST LODGE

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

1170 Fourth Avenue South ▾ Park Falls, WI 54552

Becky Dinsmore, Forest Lodge Director

(715) 762-5151

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# HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT FOREST LODGE

## *Accomplishments & Opportunities*

Forest Lodge grew from a single log cabin, built in 1893, a remnant of the logging camp. It was rebuilt in 1914-15 and remodeled in the 1920s and 1930s when most of the estate was constructed.

Listed on the National Register and Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places in 2002, the 54-acre Forest Lodge complex is considered a Historic District. The National Register nomination documents each of 15 contributing buildings, three structures, such as the stone retaining wall, and nine sites, such as the gardens and bowling green. Retaining excellent integrity, Forest Lodge showcases many Rustic-style architectural elements, including log and stone materials that emulate the natural environment.

A desire to protect the integrity of her property prompted Mary Griggs Burke to donate Forest Lodge to the American people. Mrs. Burke, envisioning future management by the Forest Service, named the Forest Lodge estate the Mary Livingston Griggs Historical Special Management Area in honor of her mother. Working with The Trust for Public Land, Mrs. Burke set aside an endowment to maintain the property in perpetuity. Her generosity, together with the life estate and the Forest Lodge Advisory Council that oversees the endowment, enables the Forest Service to begin planning for public use of this remarkable place.

Ready assistance from partners and volunteers demonstrates a keen public interest in preserving Forest Lodge for the future. Many have already helped with initial projects, such as the ice house rehabilitation, archaeological survey, oral history, and the National Register nomination. A historic structures and cultural landscape report documents the estate's physical condition and provides recommendations for maintenance and contemporary uses that retain the estate's significant qualities. These and other background reports will culminate in a cultural resource management plan for preservation.

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Historic preservation activities at Forest Lodge have provided valuable training for Forest Service employees and volunteers participating in the agency's Passport-In-Time program. Forest Lodge promises future training opportunities for those seeking the latest skills and experience in log structure stabilization, historic roof and window replacements, stone foundation and chimney repair, cultural landscape care, site interpretation, and other techniques. Such skills will better prepare heritage paraprofessionals, historic sites managers, and volunteers to maintain historic properties on national forests and other public lands in the Upper Midwest and East. Expert trainers, including local craftspeople, consultants, and agency professionals, will be invited to share their knowledge and skills. For the participants, contributing to the preservation of Forest Lodge plus the chance to work side-by-side with the experts guarantee a high quality learning experience.

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# FOREST LODGE CENTER FOR CULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## *Scenario for Future Programs*

As envisioned at the time of its acquisition by the Forest Service, the Forest Lodge Center facilitates training and leadership in the environment and culture. Programs in conservation education, research, land stewardship, collaborative problem solving, and arts and humanities in the natural world reflect a broad range of current issues in the Upper Midwest and Eastern United States. Teachers, community leaders, natural resource managers, social scientists, advanced students, artists, musicians, writers, and others easily picture themselves in retreats and small workshops at Forest Lodge.

The programs and services at Forest Lodge are as much concept as place. Shaped by its one hundred-year legacy of living gently with the land, Forest Lodge's natural peace and beauty welcome all who visit. The historic estate, elegantly preserved in rustic authenticity, showcases its traditions for future generations to enjoy. Drawn to its casual, family-style setting, people naturally make connections at Forest Lodge.

Serving customer needs, Forest Lodge programs favor small groups of up to 40 individuals in a secluded, northwoods setting. A variety of meeting rooms and outdoor spaces accommodate the entire group, such as the guest house's timbered English-style great room and the lower garden overlooking the lake. Additional rooms in the guest house and the maid's cabin offer smaller places for personal interaction, focused dialogue with experts, and time for creative solitude. Numerous trails and winding pathways beckon explorers or those simply seeking quiet time. A place for renewing human connections with the natural world, Forest Lodge encourages use of communication skills over technological devices.

Forest Lodge staff and consultants assist groups in developing and facilitating their customized agenda for a one-day meeting or a week's retreat. Most programs operate from early spring through the fall color

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season due to the seasonal nature of the Forest Lodge facilities. Occasional winter outings may be considered. As overnight accommodations are limited on-site, full-service lodging is available at nearby resorts. Area chefs assemble hearty northwoods cuisines for catering to the kitchen and dining room at the main lodge. Program fees cover meeting space, equipment use, catering, and consultant services.

We invite public agencies, universities, private institutions and organizations to join the Forest Lodge legacy, forming a complementary network of expertise and support. As a meeting place and retreat center, Forest Lodge has the potential to serve many audiences and meet people's changing needs over time. Public land management agencies and rural communities will find Forest Lodge a place to build common goals for livable, sustainable solutions that address land and resource use challenges of the day.

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# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREATS AT FOREST LODGE

## *Scenario for Support & Training*

With the approach of 2005, the USDA Forest Service's 100th anniversary, the agency finds adaptation to be one of its most valuable natural resource principles for organizational leadership. The Forest Service must also invest in natural resource professionals to shepherd the agency's mission into the future. Training the next generation of Forest Service leaders and senior executives requires blending seasoned experience with fresh vision, melding agency perspective with outside knowledge, and preparing leaders to communicate our most important messages.

Leadership retreats at Forest Lodge support current leaders and set the stage for transferring tested wisdom. Customized agendas serve line officers, program managers and directors, scientists, and specialists throughout agency programs in the East and South, including the Washington Office. Special sabbaticals offer line officers and senior executives time for reflection and renewal, while small group dialogue reveals potential solutions to troublesome leadership issues.

Each participant engages in focused, uninterrupted time with experts and peers, including seasoned Forest Service executives and federal retirees. Retreat programs intersect with other Forest Service development programs and university or Extension seminars, permitting active interaction between participants, other natural resource professionals, community leaders, and the academic community. More of a shared learning opportunity than think tank, Forest Lodge retreats emphasize the social, political, and economic topics critical to the Forest Service's dual role as a national public land steward and compassionate, influential community member. Training stresses essential competencies for effective leadership and honing personal and intellectual skills for relationships, information management, working in diverse and changing social settings, issue resolution, and good decision making.

The historic estate at Forest Lodge serves as a natural retreat center. Small workshops and training forums, sponsored by the Forest Service and/or its

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consultants, make use of the facilities and services offered by the Forest Lodge Center for Culture and the Environment. Some leadership retreats may include limited overnight lodging at Forest Lodge. Full-service lodging is available at nearby resorts. We also invite other agencies, businesses, tribes, local governments, and organizations to explore retreat opportunities at Forest Lodge.

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For more information about Forest Lodge opportunities, please contact:

Becky Dinsmore, Forest Lodge Director
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
1170 Fourth Avenue South
Park Falls, WI 54552
(715) 762-5151 / bdinsmore@fs.fed.us

For more information about The Trust for Public Land, please contact:

Shaun Hamilton, Northwoods Initiative
The Trust for Public Land
2610 University Ave., Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 917-2240 / www.tpl.org

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